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COMICS  
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A  
UTHORITY

## ROMANTIC

10¢

## SECRETS

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

I'M SORRY JOHNNY...  
BUT I'LL HAVE TO BREAK  
OUR DATE FOR TONIGHT.  
...SOMEONE JUST  
DROPPED IN.



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# ROMANTIC SECRETS



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*Alfred E. Neuman*  
Executive Editor

WHEN I MARRIED GEORGE WILDER I KNEW THERE WAS NOTHING HE COULDN'T DO! SO I KEPT ON BELIEVING, DEMANDING, EXPECTING, THEN CAME ...

## The Crash!



FROM THE MOMENT I MARRIED GEORGE WILDER, I KNEW-- JUST KNEW, THAT IT WOULD BE A WONDERFUL MARRIAGE! OUR HONEYMOON IN THE TROPICS WAS JUST A SAMPLE OF THINGS TO COME...



OUR FIRST HOME WAS NOT LARGE, BUT IT WAS SORT OF A SMALL HEAVEN FILLED WITH DREAMS...

GEORGE DARLING, DO YOU THINK IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO HAVE A CAR?

I THINK I'LL INSIST ON IT! GIVE ME A LITTLE TIME!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

A WEEK LATER, GEORGE TOOK ME TO THE FRONT OF THE APARTMENT HOUSE...



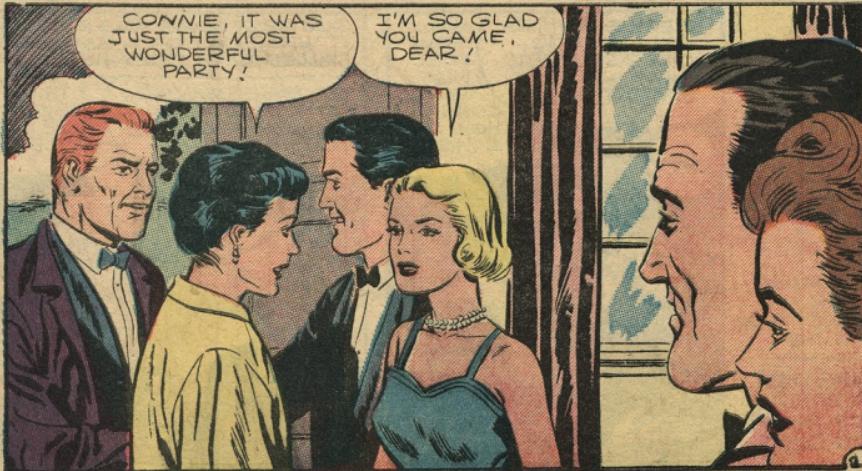
THE CAR WAS WONDERFUL! WE REALLY GOT AROUND AND SAW SO MANY MORE PEOPLE! THEN IT GAVE ME OTHER IDEAS...



WELL, IT SEEMED THAT GOOD NEWS JUST HEAPED ITSELF UPON ME! FOR IT WAS ABOUT SIX MONTHS SINCE WE HAD JOINED THE COUNTRY CLUB, WHEN GEORGE CAME HOME ONE EVENING AND...



SO WE BOUGHT A HOUSE IN ONE OF THE NICEST PARTS OF TOWN AND BEGAN TO ENTERTAIN...

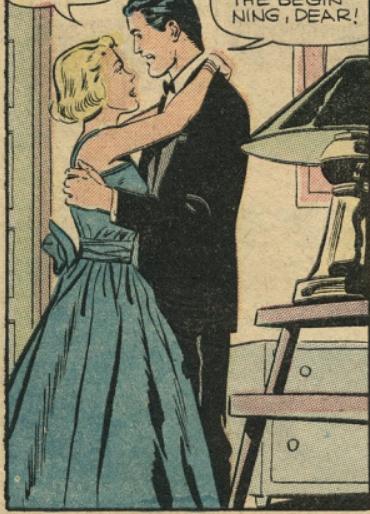


# ROMANTIC SECRETS

WHEN THE GUESTS HAD GONE  
I IMPULSIVELY THREW MYSELF  
INTO MY HUSBAND'S ARMS...

OH, GEORGE, YOU'RE THE  
MOST WONDERFUL  
HUSBAND A GIRL  
COULD EVER  
HAVE!

AND  
THIS  
IS ONLY  
THE BEGIN-  
NING, DEAR!



DO YOU SUPPOSE  
WE COULD KEEP  
ONE OF THE MAIDS  
WHO CAME TO  
HELP OUT AT  
THE PARTY,  
GEORGE?  
AFTER ALL,  
THERE'S A LOT  
MORE WORK  
TO BE DONE  
IN THIS HOUSE  
THAN THERE  
WAS IN THE  
APARTMENT!

WELL,  
WHY  
NOT?

IT WAS  
SOME  
SIX  
MONTHS  
LATER  
THAT  
GEORGE  
GAVE  
ME THE  
BEST  
NEWS  
OF  
ALL...

YOU REMEMBER MY  
SAYING I WANTED  
TO GET MY OWN  
BUSINESS, HON?  
WELL, THE BANK  
HAS COME THROUGH  
WITH FINANCING,  
I'M BUYING THE  
IRON WORKS!

OH, GEORGE!  
JUST IMAGINE,  
YOUR OWN  
BUSINESS!

IT'LL BE JUST WONDER-  
FUL! NOW WE CAN  
GET THE CADILLAC!  
WE CAN,  
CAN'T WE,  
DARLING?

WHY NOT?  
ONLY THE  
BEST FOR  
MY WIFE!

AND DO YOU KNOW YOU  
HAVE LINES DEEPENING  
IN YOUR FACE? YOU  
DON'T RELAX  
ENOUGH! DO  
YOU KNOW  
WHAT? I'M  
GOING TO  
SUBSCRIBE  
TO A SEASON  
BOX AT THE  
OPERA!

WELL...  
OKAY!  
MIGHT BE  
A GOOD  
IDEA!



IT WAS A YEAR AND A  
HALF LATER THAT I NO-  
TICED THAT GEORGE HAD  
CHANGED SOMEHOW. I  
COULDN'T PUT MY FINGER  
ON THE DIFFERENCE!  
BUT ONE NIGHT...

DO YOU KNOW,  
GEORGE, YOU  
HAVEN'T SPOKEN  
TO ME FOR  
AN HOUR!  
I HAVEN'T  
FUNNY,  
JUST  
A  
LITTLE  
TIRED,  
I GUESS!



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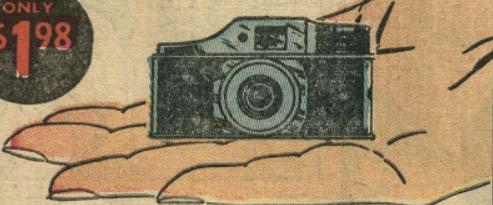


Your girl friend and other beauties will all relax in their natural pose and make a swell pin-up collection. Through a paper is just one of the many ways to go about it.

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## MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

HONOR HOUSE PRODUCTS CORP. Dept. A-6B  
35 Wilbur St. Lynbrook, N. Y.  
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I enclose payment. Same Money Back Guarantee.  
 Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus a few cents postage.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

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I enclose \$2.98 plus 36¢ shipping charges.  
 Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

# ROMANTIC SECRETS



I  
SPENT  
YEARS  
OF  
MY LIFE  
DURING  
THE  
NEXT  
FEW  
HOURS  
WAITING  
WITH  
GOD AND  
MY  
CONSCIENCE!  
THEN  
FINALLY,  
THE  
DOCTOR  
APPEARED...



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

I CANNOT DESCRIBE IN WORDS THE TERRORS OF THE MONTHS THAT FOLLOWED. FIRST THE HOUSE WENT BACK TO THE BANK, AND THEN THE CAR...

I TOOK A CHEAP ROOM. THERE WAS NO MONEY! THE TELEPHONE BECAME A NIGHTMARE, FOR IT WAS ALWAYS SOME CREDITOR CALLING...



AND THE ONLY MAIL THAT EVER CAME WERE BILLS, HUNDREDS OF THEM...



AND SUDDENLY I GREW UP AND FACED THE TRUTH...



A NEW ME  
EMERGED  
FROM  
IT  
ALL...  
A  
STRONGER  
ME... A  
FIGHTING  
ME,  
WHO  
FACED  
THE  
BANK,  
THE  
CREDITORS...

YES, I SAID YOU  
CAN'T THROW  
GEORGE OUT OF  
BUSINESS, I'LL  
RUN IT UNTIL  
HE IS ABLE!

WHY DID I  
NOT MEET  
YOU BEFORE  
MR. WILDER'S  
ILLNESS?  
PERHAPS...  
JUST PERHAPS  
IT WOULD  
NOT HAVE  
HAPPENED!



I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT GEORGE'S  
BUSINESS, BUT I CONVINCED THE  
BANK AND THE CREDITORS THAT  
I COULD LEARN, AND I DID  
LEARN -- THE BUSINESS AND  
MUCH MORE BEHIDES...



THEN  
THE  
DAY  
CAME  
WHEN  
GEORGE  
HAD  
RECOVERED  
ENOUGH  
TO  
COME  
HOME!  
THAT  
VERY  
DAY I  
TOOK  
HIM TO  
HIS  
OFFICE...

I DON'T  
UNDER-  
STAND,  
CONNIE!  
THEY  
STILL  
HAVE  
MY NAME  
ON THE  
PLANT  
AND THE  
OFFICE...

OUR NAME, GEORGE!  
YOURS AND MINE! BE-  
CAUSE NOW, DEAR, I  
SHARE EVERYTHING...  
THE LOSSES AS WELL  
AS THE SUCCESS, I'VE  
LEARNED TO GIVE AS  
WELL AS RECEIVE,  
DARLING!



GEORGE TOOK ME INTO HIS  
ARMS AND HIS LIPS TREMBLED,  
YET NO MORE THAN DID MINE!  
IT WAS THE BEGINNING OF A  
NEW LIFE AND A NEW VIBRANT  
BEAUTIFUL LOVE, SO MUCH  
MORE THAN IT ONCE HAD BEEN!

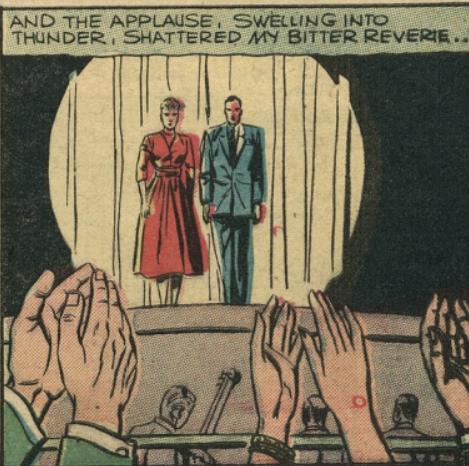
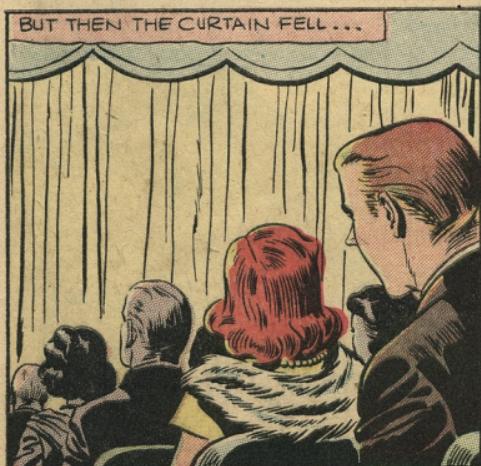


ROMANTIC SECRETS

# The Real Thing

OH, LARRY -- IF ONLY  
I COULD STAY IN YOUR  
ARMS FOREVER!  
IF ONLY THIS WERE  
THE REAL THING!

S1021



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

I WAS SMILING AS I TOOK MY BOWS--BUT DEEP INSIDE, MY HEART WAS BREAKING...

IT'S MY FAULT THAT LARRY'S EMBRACE WAS ONLY PLAY-ACTING--ALL MY FAULT!



SLICK PERFORMANCE. TONIGHT, MAYA! SO LONG -- SEE YOU AT TOMORROW'S MATINEE!



I WAS IN MY DRESSING ROOM NOW! THERE WAS A STAR ON THE DOOR, AND I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY--BUT HOW CAN A GIRL BE HAPPY WHEN SHE KNOWS THAT SHE'S DOOMED HERSELF TO LONELINESS?



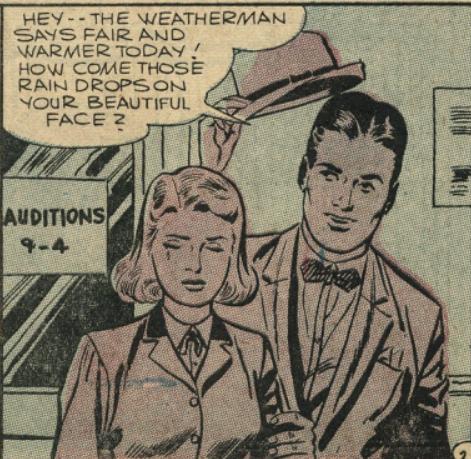
I COULD HAVE HAD THE REAL THING INSTEAD OF JUST TINSEL LOVE DREAMED UP BY PLAYWRIGHTS IN ONE HIT AFTER ANOTHER...



..." IF ONLY I'D LISTENED TO MY HEART WHEN I FIRST CAME TO NEW YORK? BUT I WAS SO YOUNG -- SO AFLAME WITH AMBITION ...



HEY--THE WEATHERMAN SAYS FAIR AND WARMER TODAY! HOW COME THOSE RAIN DROPS ON YOUR BEAUTIFUL FACE?



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

I COULD PLAY THAT PART  
A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER  
THAN THAT SCARECROW  
THE PRODUCER PICKED!

ONS  
4



RELAX, HONEY! YOU HAVE A MILLION  
JUICY ROLES AHEAD OF YOU! THIS IS  
YOUR LUCKY DAY, AFTER ALL--BE-  
CAUSE I WAS TURNED DOWN  
TOO--AND THAT  
LEAVES ME FREE  
TO TEACH YOU  
TO SMILE...



I  
LET  
HIM  
TAKE  
ME TO  
LUNCH...  
AND  
BEFORE  
I  
KNEW  
IT,  
I  
WAS  
SMILING  
AGAIN...

LARRY--  
YOU'RE  
SWEET!

SHH -- DON'T TELL  
A SOUL, BUT YOU  
BRING OUT THE  
SWEETNESS  
IN ME!



AFTER THAT, LARRY WAS ALWAYS  
AROUND TO SEE THAT THE SMILE  
NEVER FADED...



AND THEN...

I WANT YOU TO  
MARRY ME, MAYA!  
WE'LL LICK THE  
THEATRE TO-  
GETHER!



MY  
HEART  
BEGGED  
ME  
TO  
SAY  
YES!  
BUT  
I  
WAS  
SO  
YOUNG--  
SO  
AFLAME  
WITH  
AMBITION...

NO, LARRY! IT  
WOULDN'T BE  
RIGHT! TO GET  
TO THE TOP,  
I HAVE TO  
WORK ALONE!  
MARRIAGE  
MIGHT SIDE-  
TRACK ME!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

LARRY WAS PERSISTENT! HE KEPT ASKING -- AND FINALLY...

PLEASE, LET'S STOP SEEING EACH OTHER! I'LL NEVER BE HAPPY UNLESS I'M A STAR! THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO DEVOTE MY WHOLE SELF TO...

OKAY, MAYA -- IF THAT'S HOW YOU WANT IT! SO LONG, BE SEEING YOU UP IN LIGHTS SOME DAY!



IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, WE MET MANY TIMES! IT WAS ONLY NATURAL -- WE WERE BOTH SO ACTIVE IN THE THEATRE! BUT THEY WERE CASUAL MEETINGS, FILLED ONLY WITH SHOP-TALK...



AND SO WE BOTH CLIMBED THE LADDER TO SUCCESS -- AND THEN BY A STRANGE QUIRK OF FATE ...

YOU KNOW LARRY, DON'T YOU, MAYA? HE'LL BE YOUR CO-STAR IN THIS SHOW!



THE PLAY WAS A HIT! NIGHT AFTER NIGHT I FOUND MYSELF IN THE ARMS OF THE MAN I'D BEEN SUCH A FOOL TO SEND AWAY! FOR NOW I KNEW ...



WAS IT ANY WONDER THAT NOW, ALONE IN THE DRESSING ROOM WITH THE STAR ON THE DOOR, I BEGAN TO CRY...?



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

THIS WAS THE NEXT PERFORMANCE NOW THE LAST MINUTE OF THE PLAY -- AND LARRY WAS SWEEPING ME INTO HIS ARMS AGAIN...



LARRY, LET ME GO! THE CURTAINS GOING UP -- WE HAVE TO TAKE OUR BOWS!



...BUT AFTER LAST NIGHT'S SHOW YOU LEFT YOUR DRESSING ROOM DOOR OPEN! I SAW YOU, MAYA, BAWLING LIKE A LITTLE GIRL... AND THAT TOLD ME WHAT I'D BEEN ACHING TO KNOW...



LET THE CURTAIN GO UP! WHO CARES? LET THEM ALL SEE THAT I'VE FOUND OUT MY GIRL HAS A HEART AFTER ALL --



...LET THEM SEE THE REAL THING!



END

ROMANTIC SECRETS

# MEMORY!

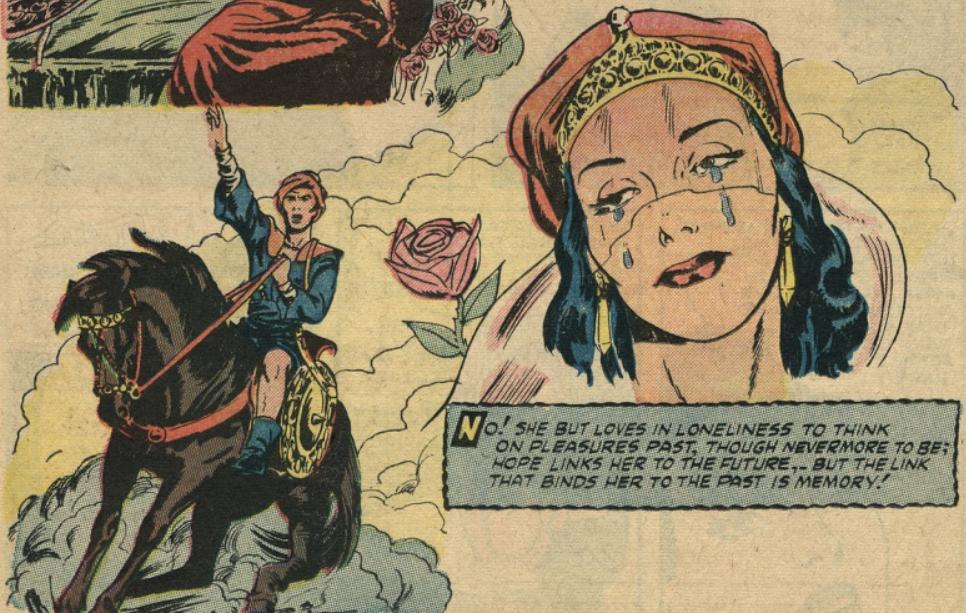
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HY SITS SHE THUS IN SOLITUDE? HER HEART  
SEEMS MELTING IN HER EYES' DELICIOUS BLUE;  
AND AS IT HEAVES, HER RIPE LIPS LIE APART,  
AS IF TO LET ITS HEAVY THROBBINGS THROUGH.



J

JOYS OPENING BUDS, AFFECTIONS GLOWING FLOWERS,  
ONCE LIGHTLY SPRANG WITHIN HER BEARING TRACK;  
O, LIFE WAS BEAUTIFUL IN THOSE LOST HOURS.  
AND YET SHE DOES NOT WISH TO WANDER BACK!



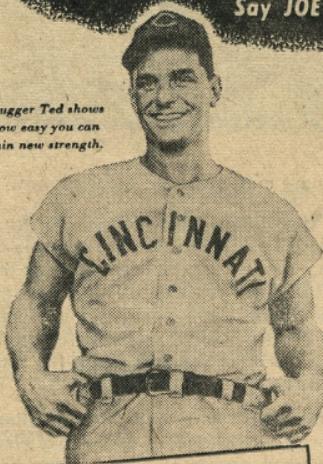
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NO! SHE BUT LOVES IN LONELINESS TO THINK  
ON PLEASURES PAST, THOUGH NEVERMORE TO BE;  
HOPE LINKS HER TO THE FUTURE-- BUT THE LINK  
THAT BINDS HER TO THE PAST IS MEMORY!

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I'll send you my "Fight Secrets" for just 10c — so that you'll be sure to write me. Get off the bench — into the game. Send me the coupon right now!



Sincerely,

*Joe Louis*

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# "LOVE ON WHEELS"

John Merton, owner of the Merton Auto Teaching School, was doing his best not to lose his temper. The young lady standing before him on the other side of the counter was young and attractive. A smile would have made her beautiful but now there was a scowl on her face.

"Believe me, Miss Ahderson," said John Merton, "in the quarter of a century that I have been conducting this auto teaching school, I never had a complaint that couldn't be adjusted satisfactorily. If you don't like Mr. Perry then I will arrange to have another instructor for you. But then you will have to wait until next Tuesday. The entire schedule for the week is completed. You wouldn't want me to tell another person that the car isn't available because you come first?"

"Is that a question or a statement?" challenged Dona Anderson. "I should get a driving lesson now. Right now. I told you yesterday I will not go in a car with that Mr. Perry. He has absolutely no patience when you start to ask him questions. It is the duty of a teacher to listen and to explain. Otherwise what am I getting for my money?"

"Anything wrong, dad?" interrupted a friendly voice. John Merton shook his head in the affirmative. Dona Anderson turned around to observe a young man, tall and slim, who had somehow silently entered the store that served as headquarters for the auto teaching school.

"Maybe you can make a miracle for me, Frank," replied the elder Merton. "The young lady wants a lesson right now. She won't go in the car with Mr. Perry. What am I going to do?"

"I'll give her a lesson myself. Isn't it the duty of a good son to help his father out in a time of need. Let me see her schedule."

John Merton was about to say something. He opened his mouth and then closed it without a word passing his lips. He handed his son a

sheet. The young man gave it a quick glance.

"You are due for a lesson on a highway. Straight driving. That means you are capable of handling the wheel by yourself. We can use the big sedan. That's the car that doubles for service in the mountain resorts when spring comes. We'll go up Central Avenue until we hit route 22. Then you can take the wheel. By the way what is your name?"

"Dona Anderson," informed the impatient young lady who was glancing at the big electric clock above the counter. "And remember, my time starts when the car gets out of the city. Don't try to cheat me out of a half-hour driving time."

"How could you?" protested Frank Merton in mock seriousness. "The reputation of my father's school could not stand the slightest blemish. Just for that you will get an extra hour without any additional charge being made. As they say, it is on the house."

Frank Merton drove slowly along Central Avenue. He found it a bit difficult to keep his eyes on traffic and on the young lady at his side.

"If you aren't careful, we might have an accident," chided Dona Anderson. "Something seems to be distracting you while you drive. What is it?"

"You" was the one word reply. And for the moment it sufficed to keep the young lady from replying. At the point where Central Avenue meets route 22, Frank Merton pulled the car to the side of the road and stopped.

"You take the wheel now," he told her. "Just keep on driving until you want to take a break."

For the next hour and a half the young lady drove carefully along the highway. In the summertime it was a crowded highway. But now the trees were bare and winter was sending a sample chilly spell. The car stopped outside a diner.

"A cup of coffee and some hamburgers?" suggested Dona Anderson. "The treat is on me."

There were several booths in the diner and the two sat down. Soon they were drinking warm coffee.

"Where did you get the name of Dona?" asked Frank. "A touch of Spanish?"

"My father came from Sweden and my mother from Belgium. Dad wanted a boy and was ready with the name of Donald. When I came, mother suggested the name Dona. Maybe some day I'll go to Spain."

The counter girl handed Frank the check and over Dona Anderson's protests he paid for it. They drove for another half-hour.

"Soon you will have to turn back," reminded Frank. "You drive very well. The previous instructors must have done a good job. All I have had to do is sit at your side. And that wasn't a bit unpleasant."

When they came to Howland Junction, Frank signalled to Dona to stop.

"Look at that car wrapped around the telephone pole. There's a police car that just arrived. Let's see if we can be of any assistance."

The young man spoke to one of the police officers and soon they were forcing the door of the smashed car open. An unconscious man was taken from the driver's seat. Frank examined the man quickly.

"He'll be dead unless an emergency operation is performed at once. You have to get him to a hospital. The nearest one is at Bloomfield and that's forty miles away."

"So you are also a doctor," commented Dona Anderson.

"Yes," was the unexpected reply. "By the time an ambulance gets here it will be too late. We have to drive like the blazes. I could handle the wheel but my duty is to take care of this man."

"I'll get you there," was the suggestion made by the young lady. "I can drive racing cars. My father is Burt Anderson the famous speed driver. I was doing a series of articles on auto driving schools and seeing how efficient they are. You take care of your patient. Let the police car either go ahead or radio to other cars to clear the road for us and let us burn up the gas."

phone and contacted headquarters. The message went out to every police patrol car in the county. Then the race to the hospital began! Dr. Frank Merton sat in the back of the car with the unconscious man. And Dona seemed to burn up the road as the car almost flew along the highway. The police car did its best to stay ahead, but when Sergeant Macready pushed the patrol car to the limit, he commented to his buddy, Officer Joe Varino.

"Can you imagine that gal with a getaway car after a bank job? Brother, she could outpace anyone."

The car drove up to the hospital and they were ready, having been notified by radio of the situation. The unconscious man was examined and then rushed to the operating room. Dr. Frank Merton and Dona Anderson sat in the lounge side by side. They didn't speak a word but somehow their hands met and then clasped. Sergeant Macready paced up and down the long corridor. Protruding from his pocket could be seen the accident form he had filled out. Once when he reached the end of the corridor he turned and glanced for a moment at the two. Her head was now on the young man's shoulder. The door of the operating room opened and Dr. William J. Limer, the head surgeon came out. He spotted the officer and spoke to him.

"Another ten minutes and it would have been too late to operate. The patient will recover. This is something I will never forget. I must speak to Dr. Merton. His diagnosis was perfect. Wonder if he would care to join our staff. And that young lady certainly deserves a lot of thanks. This was a time when speed driving was essential. I want to meet her."

Dr. Limer and the officer walked to the other end of the corridor which connected to the waiting room where the two young people were seated. Sergeant Macready stopped.

"Look there, doc! They're kissing each other!"

"That's the natural thing to do when two people are in love," explained Dr. Limer.

"But she ain't a nurse," objected the police officer. "In the movies the doc falls in love with a pretty nurse. She's pretty but not a nurse."

"So when he opens his own hospital then he will have the best female ambulance driver in the country," snapped back Dr. Limer. "Come into my office and we'll finish that accident report you must make."

Sergeant Bill Macready got on the radio

The End

ROMANTIC SECRETS

# Love Can Hurt You

I LOVE YOU, ROSA!  
I LOVE YOU VERY  
MUCH!

DO YOU,  
KURT?  
THAT'S  
NICE!

I HAD HEARD THOSE VERY WORDS  
BEFORE! TOO MANY TIMES BEFORE.

ROSA, I  
LOVE YOU.

OH,  
JACK--  
I LOVE  
YOU TOO!



AND  
I  
KNEW  
THE  
HEART-  
BREAK,  
THE  
DIS-  
APPOINT-  
MENT  
OF  
SEEING  
MY  
LOVE  
FADE  
FROM  
MY  
LIFE...



AND NOW IT WAS HAPPENING ALL OVER  
AGAIN...

OH, KURT--  
YOU'RE  
FUNNY!

BUT I DO  
LOVE YOU,  
DON'T YOU  
UNDERSTAND?

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M AFRAID I  
DON'T! LET'S KEEP IT LIGHT,  
KURT--THEN YOU  
WON'T HAVE TO  
CHANGE YOUR  
MIND!

ROSA,  
PLEASE...



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

THEN LET ME PROVE I LOVE YOU, DEAR,  
PLEASE DON'T STOP LETTING  
ME SEE YOU!

OF COURSE  
NOT! I THINK  
YOU'RE FUN  
TO GO OUT  
WITH,  
REALLY!



AND SO WE ATTENDED DANCES...



...AND SHOWS...



AND THEN ONCE MORE...

ROSA, WON'T YOU ACCEPT  
MY RING? WON'T YOU  
TRY TO LOVE ME?

I'M SORRY,  
KURT!



I GUESS YOU DON'T  
REALLY LOVE ME AT  
THAT! GOOD NIGHT,  
ROSA!

GOOD  
NIGHT,  
KURT.



AND SO KURT THORN  
WALKED OUT OF MY  
LIFE...

AND THIS TIME I  
HAVEN'T BEEN  
HURT AT ALL!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

BUT THAT NIGHT I DID NOT SLEEP WELL...

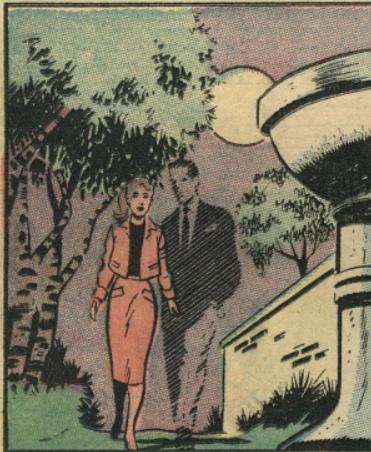
OH, WHY DO I STILL KEEP  
THINKING OF KURT? HE'S  
GONE. HE'S OUT OF  
MY LIFE FOREVER!



AND WHY DID THOSE TORMENTING MEMORIES STILL RETURN TO ME...



AND WHEN  
HE  
DID  
NOT  
RETURN  
AGAIN  
I  
WANTED  
TO BE  
FREE OF  
HIM, BUT  
I COULD  
NOT, AND  
ONE DAY,  
AS I  
WALKED  
IN THE  
PARK IT  
WAS AS  
IF HE  
WERE  
BESIDE  
ME...



AND THAT DAY I WALKED TO THE BOWER  
WHERE WE SO OFTEN USED TO MEET...

KURT!  
ROSA! I CAME HERE  
BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME  
OF YOU -- I CANNOT  
FORGET YOU!



OH, KURT!  
THEN YOU  
REALLY  
DO LOVE  
ME!

ROSA, DARLING!  
YOU MEAN...



THERE WERE NO OTHER WORDS NECESSARY  
AND NONE WERE SPOKEN! WHEN KURT  
KISSED ME I KNEW HIS LOVE WOULD  
NEVER FADE!



END

# ROMANTIC SECRETS

# IT WAS NOT LOVE

CHARLEY, I DON'T CARE IF RAY FARNHAM IS AN OLD FRIEND ! I SIMPLY CAN'T DO AS YOU ASK ! I CAME TO THIS BALL WITH YOU !

HUSH, WILL YOU ? LISTEN, HONEY. BE REASONABLE !

561



RAY FARNHAM WAS A CASUAL ACQUAINTANCE, WHOM I'D MET SOCIALLY, BUT I WONDERED HOW I'D APPROACH HIM WITHOUT BEING TOO AGGRESSIVE ...





# ROMANTIC SECRETS

OF COURSE, CHARLEY HAD BEEN WATCHING,  
SO WHEN I RETURNED TO HIM...

YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU GOT COLD FEET AFTER SUCH A SWELL APPROACH?

I TELL YOU IT WASN'T AN APPROACH, I REALLY TRIPPED! AND I WON'T GO FISHING FOR YOU!



YOU DON'T LOVE ME, CHARLEY BOWMAN! YOU WANT ME ONLY FOR DECORATION! ONLY FOR THE CONTACTS MY SOCIAL STANDING CAN GIVE YOU!

HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT? YOU'RE MY GIRL!!!



LET'S GO,  
IT'S LATE!

WAIT FOR ME,  
CHARLEY! I'LL BE  
RIGHT THERE!!!



I STARTED AFTER CHARLEY, WHEN ...

OH, RAY! I SEEM TO BE RUNNING INTO YOU WHEREVER I GO! I'M SORRY!

I COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING YOU, WANDA! PLEASE LET ME TAKE YOU HOME!



I RETURNED CHARLEY BOWMAN'S RING! HE TRIED MANY TIMES TO PHONE ME AFTER THAT BUT I WAS NEVER AVAILABLE! THERE WAS A REASON-- IN FACT, HE'S AT THE DOOR NOW...

HELLO,  
DARLING!

OH,  
RAY!



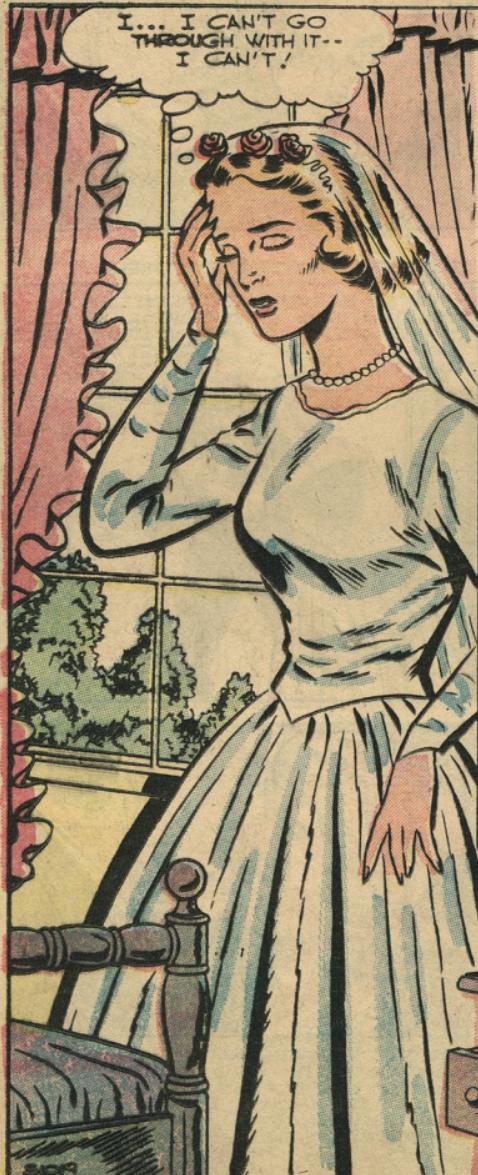
YOU SEE, RAY FARNHAM COMES TO CALL ON ME EVERY DAY NOW, BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CHARLEY BOWMAN AND HIS CONTACTS! RAY AND I ARE VERY MUCH IN LOVE! WE ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED SOON!

END



# Wedding Day

WHAT DOES A GIRL THINK ABOUT ON HER WEDDING DAY? WHAT ARE THE THOUGHTS THAT RACE THROUGH HER TREMBLING MIND...?



THIS IS MY ROOM! I'VE LIVED HERE ALL MY LIFE! IT'S WATCHED ME ALL THROUGH THE YEARS! THIS IS THE TEDDY BEAR I SLEPT WITH WHEN I WAS A BABY!



THE CLOSETS ARE BARE NOW!  
THE BUREAU DRAWERS ARE  
EMPTY! EVERYTHING'S  
PACKED! I'M TAKING  
EVERYTHING AWAY  
THAT BELONGS IN  
THIS ROOM!

LISE,  
DEAR--  
ARE  
YOU  
READY?



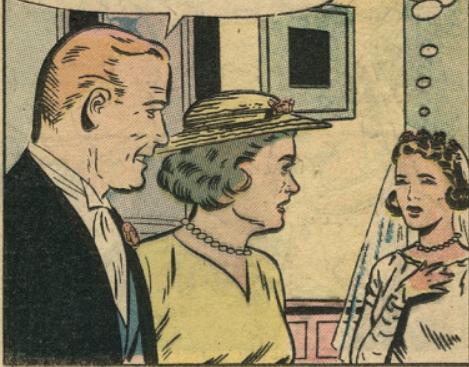
# ROMANTIC SECRETS

M-M MOTHER ... I'M LEAVING HER TOO! SHE WON'T BE WAITING UP FOR ME NIGHTS ANY MORE! SHE WON'T BE AT MY BEDSIDE WHEN I'M SICK!

LISE, YOU LOOK TIRED! YOU'VE BEEN UNDER SUCH A STRAIN, DEAR!

IT'LL ALL BE OVER SOON! IN LESS THAN AN HOUR NOW WE'LL BE HEARING "HERE COMES THE BRIDE!"

DAD!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

DAD'S TREMBLING TOO!  
AND MOTHER WAS SO  
PALE -- THEY'VE BEEN  
HIDING THEIR FEELINGS--  
BUT WHY?



IF THEY'RE FRIGHTENED  
TOO -- WHY ARE THEY  
LETTING ME GO  
THROUGH WITH  
IT... WHY?



THIS MUST BE A BAD  
DREAM -- THAT'S ALL  
IT IS. I'LL WAKE  
UP SOON. AND...



BILL!



OH, BILL, I WAS SO FRIGHTENED! SO WRAPPED UP  
IN ALL THAT I WAS LEAVING,  
THAT I FORGOT WHAT  
I WAS COMING TO!  
I LOVE YOU, BILL!  
AND, YES, GOODBYE  
TO MY FAMILY WAS  
SAD...



... BUT HELLO TO  
MY HUSBAND IS  
JOYOUS!  
WONDERFULLY  
JOYOUS! OH,  
MY DARLING  
BILL!



END

# ROMANTIC SECRETS

FOR THREE YEARS OF HER MARRIAGE MARY HAD CARRIED THE MEMORY OF THAT LAST NIGHT AT THE FARM, THE NIGHT THAT HAD SHATTERED HER BRIDE'S DREAMS! NOW FRANK WAS TAKING HER BACK FOR A ...

# Second Honeymoon

THERE'S THE FARM-HOUSE, MARY! BET THE CRAIGS HAVE THE FIRE GOING ON THE HEARTH!

Y-YES, I SUPPOSE SO, FRANK!



S1031

YOU DON'T SOUND VERY EN-  
THUSIASTIC!

DON'T I? I...  
DIDN'T MEAN NOT  
TO BE, FRANK.  
I WAS JUST  
REMEMBERING...  
BEFORE ...



I WAS  
REMEMBER-  
ING  
APPREHEN-  
SIVELY,  
PERHAPS  
BITTERLY, A  
TIME ONLY  
THREE  
YEARS AGO,  
WHEN FRANK  
AND I HAD  
JUST  
STARTED  
OUR HONEY-  
MOON,  
ARRIVING  
AT THE  
CRAIG  
FARM-  
HOUSE...

HELLO,  
FOLKS!

WELCOME FRANK  
AND MARY!  
THE HONEY-  
MOONERS!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

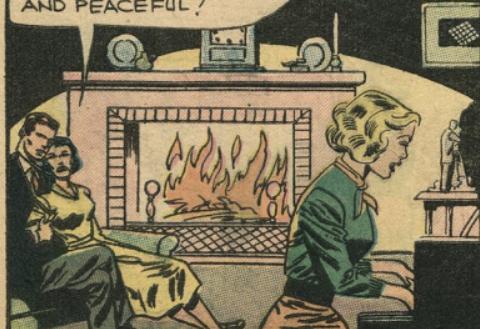


SUPPER WAS WAITING FOR US AND I COULD FEEL THE WARM FRIENDLINESS OF THE PLACE STEALING OVER ME! I KNEW WHY FRANK HAD SPOKEN IN GLOWING TERMS OF HIS HOME COUNTRY SIDE, ESPECIALLY OF THE CRAIGS WHO HAD BEEN HIS NEIGHBORS...



AFTER SUPPER WE WENT TO THE PARLOR WHERE A WARM FIRE BURNED BRIGHTLY! JEAN PLAYED SIMPLE OLD HYMNS AND FAVORITE TUNES ON A SMALL ORGAN...

I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER FELT SO HAPPY... AND PEACEFUL!



AND THEN...

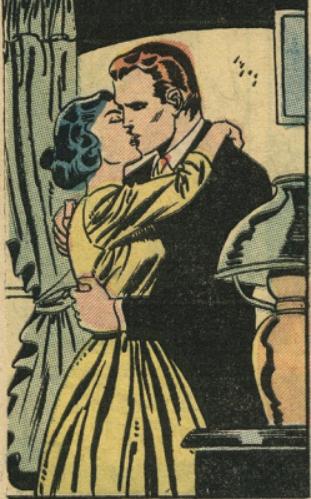
OH, FRANK, WHAT A QUAINTE, BEAUTIFUL BEDROOM!

IT'S REAL OLD AMERICAN, HONEY! NOTHING HERE I GUESS THAT'S NOT A HUNDRED YEARS OLD! THE PLACE WILL GROW ON YOU, YOU'LL SEE!



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

I WAS SO VERY HAPPY !  
TO BE MARRIED TO FRANK  
AND LIVE IN SUCH A LOVELY  
OLD PLACE FOR TWO WHOLE  
WEEKS...



OF COURSE FRANK WAS AN  
EXPERT ON SKIIS ! THAT'S  
WHY I HAD TAKEN LESSONS  
BEFORE OUR MARRIAGE !  
BUT I WAS AN INFANT ON  
THEM COMPARED TO FRANK  
AND JEAN...

REMEMBER HOW  
WE USED TO DO  
THIS HILL IN NO-  
THING FLAT,  
FRANK ?

GUESS I'M  
LIKE AN  
EXTRA  
ARM  
HERE !

I'LL  
NEVER  
FOR-  
GET  
IT !

FRANK WAS LIKE A SPIN-  
NER ! HE SEEMED TO FOR-  
GET EVERYTHING BUT THE  
THRILL OF BEING ON SKIIS  
AGAIN ... AND JEAN WAS  
LIKE HIS SHADOW...

COMING,  
JEAN ? I'LL BEAT YOU  
DOWN THE  
HILL !



I WATCHED THEM, MARVELING  
AT THEIR SKILL AND GRACE ...



MY  
LESSONS  
HAD  
NOT  
INCLUDED  
MOUNTAIN  
SKIING !  
I  
STARTED  
DOWN.  
SUDDENLY  
LEARNING  
I HAD  
NO  
BUSINESS  
THERE...



BUT I COULDN'T STOP, AND I COULD NOT CONTROL  
MY SKIIS ...

OH, HELP !  
HELP !



# ROMANTIC SECRETS

OF COURSE BOTH FRANK AND JEAN--ESPECIALLY FRANK, BLAMED THEMSELVES FOR MY DIFFICULTY! AND IN THE FOLLOWING DAYS, THEY DID ALL POSSIBLE TO MAKE UP FOR THEIR FORGETFULNESS...

THE CRAIGS HELD SEVERAL PARTIES IN THEIR LOVELY OLD HOUSE -- REAL HOMEY ONES...



TWICE JEAN TOOK US TO SQUARE-DANCES...



AND ON SUNDAYS, WE ATTENDED THE OLD TOWN CHURCH. BEAUTIFUL IN SETTING AND SPIRIT...



AND ALL TOO SOON CAME OUR LAST NIGHT AT THE FARM. WE WERE BEFORE THE HUGE FIRE, FEELING THAT SORROW OF THE END OF A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE...



FRANK, OF COURSE, OFFERED TO TAKE THE BAG FOR ME--BUT IT WAS SUCH A SHORT TRIP TO THE GARAGE. I INSISTED ON GOING ALONE...



I WALKED GAILY BACK TOWARD THE DOOR, WHEN SUDDENLY I STOPPED SHORT, UNWILLING TO BELIEVE MY EYES...



I WENT STRAIGHT TO THE BEDROOM! LATER, WHEN FRANK CAME IN, I FEIGNED SLEEP! BUT I DID NOT SLEEP, NOT THE WHOLE NIGHT THROUGH...



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mer—it shatters! Pull it slowly  
—it stretches! Press it on a comic  
book and it steals a perfect im-  
pression in color...Leave it alone  
and it sinks into a tired old pud-  
dle. Comes in a leakproof plastic  
egg...You'll relax with this one  
—and really have a ball.  
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terial your parents have read  
about in Life, Time, and other  
magazines. Truly a great new  
toy. This is the real THING.

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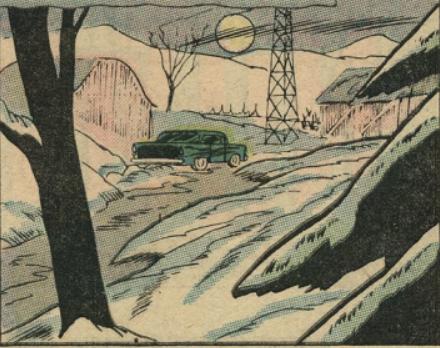
# ROMANTIC SECRETS

PERHAPS IT  
WAS PRIDE.  
PERHAPS  
FEAR.  
THAT  
CAUSED ME  
NOT EVER  
TO MENTION  
THE INCIDENT  
TO FRANK!  
IN THE  
THREE  
POLLING  
YEARS, MY  
HUSBAND  
WAS KIND,  
DEVOTED  
AND  
SUCCESS-  
FUL! THEN,  
LESS THAN  
A WEEK  
AGO...

DARLING, I THINK WE'LL HAVE  
ANOTHER HONEYMOON!  
HOW ABOUT TAKING  
A TRIP TO VISIT  
THE CRAIGS?

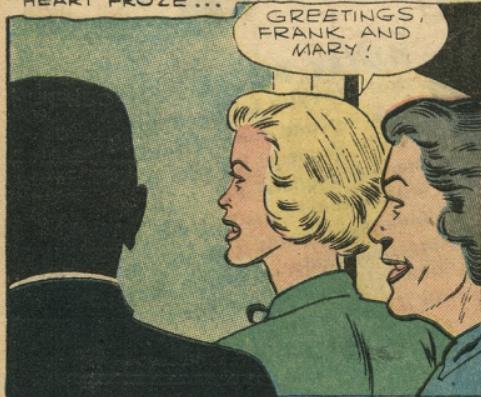
OH...

I COULD NOT REFUSE WITHOUT TELLING  
WHY... AND WHAT I HAD HELD INSIDE  
ME FOR THREE YEARS I COULD NOT  
BRING MYSELF TO SPEAK OF! BUT  
NOW, AS WE ARRIVED, I INWARDLY  
CALLED MYSELF A FOOL...



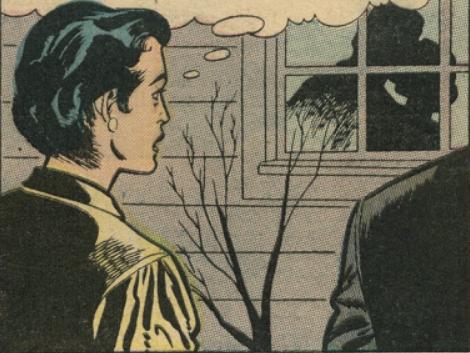
AND THEN, SEEING THEM WAITING, SEEING  
THE JOY IN JEAN CRAIG'S FACE, MY  
HEART FROZE ...

GREETINGS,  
FRANK AND  
MARY!



THEN I STARTED FOR THE HOUSE, AND...

THE ... THE SHADOW OF FRANK ... AND  
J... BUT IT CAN'T BE! JEAN AND  
FRANK ARE OUT HERE!



AND THEN  
I SAW  
IT  
ALL...  
AND  
A  
GREAT  
FEELING  
OF  
BOTH  
RELIEF  
AND  
SHAME  
SWEPT  
OVER  
ME...

WHAT I REALLY SAW  
WAS THE SHADOW OF  
THAT STATUE, CAST  
BY THE FIRE AND  
THROWN AGAINST  
THE SHADE!



FRANK PUT HIS ARM ABOUT ME AND I  
SMILED AS HE SAID ...

HEY, THIS IS NO TIME  
FOR TEARS!

THEY ARE  
TEARS OF  
HAPPINESS,  
DARLING!  
BECAUSE I  
KNOW THIS  
HONEYMOON  
WILL BE  
EVEN HAPPIER  
THAN THE  
FIRST!

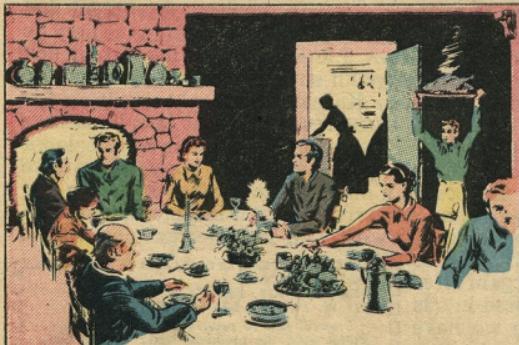


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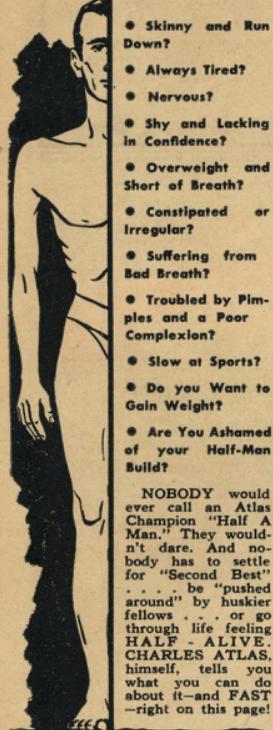
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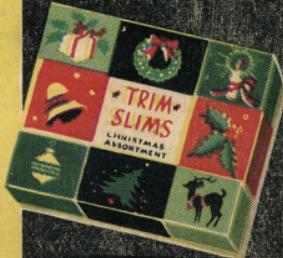
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Each a charming expression of Christmas.



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